

Community Development Advisory Committee Minutes

Date: February 19, 2020

Member Attendees:

Mr. Karl Bernhardsen, At-Large Appointee, Chair
Ms. Mary Ann Callahan, 1st District, Vice-Chair
Ms. LaToya Foster, 2nd District, Secretary
Ms. Brandy Brown, 3rd District
Ms. Majeedah Razzaq, 4th District
Mr. Brett Pornbeck, 5th District Proxy
Ms. Debra Hogan, Mayoral Appointee
Ms. Kelly Weiss, Mayoral Appointee

Member Absent:

Ms. JoAnne Hanrahan, Mayoral Appointee

Staff Members Attending:

Mr. Stephen Carson, HUD Manager

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- Meeting called to order: 6:15 PM
 - 2/05/2020 Minutes Approved (1-Foster, 2- Weiss, unanimous)
 - Presentations
 - **Binghamton Local Development Corp.: Joel Boyd**
 - 5 year plan
 - Industrial Park: They have a sizeable acreage along with a power plant. Possibly turning it into a data/server farm
 - Possibly putting another grocery store on the Northside and placing another one in the downtown area
 - Having more service type businesses other than bars
 - **Parks Department: Patrick McGinnis**
 - Plans on reduce Little League field to T-Ball size field at Columbus Park
 - They will not be doing anymore pavilions in hopes of crime prevention
 - 5 year plan
 - Water Slides at Lindsey & Webster Parks
 - Shade structures at Lindsey Park
 - Add spray pad at 1st ward (According to Mary Ann the community is against the idea)
 - Phelps Park basketball court repair
 - Solar panels on park bathroom; there hope is that this will allow the parks to cover their own electricity and be able to keep the heat on in the winter
 - Replacing senior center flooring for 1st ward
 - Playground upgrades
 - The Parks Department is having issues with park workers wanting to stay on and work because of safety concerns. The police are not being called in time by Park Rangers to prevent escalation of issues. If an adult is scared to work at the park then they don't want to send a teen to work there.
 - It was recommended that they have the Park Rangers do training with the Police Department

- **Code Enforcement: Chris Schleider**
 - Building Blocks app/program designed by Tolemi software company to give a snapshot of what's taking place for individual properties
 - Link on their website to go straight to program. You can see what's going on with your own property or a property you are trying to rent. The site is still under construction and is not currently active.
 - CDBG funds pays roughly 50% of the Code Enforcement staff
 - Code inspections are free and they encourage landlords and tenants to seek coding help
- Recommendations
 - **Debra** recommended that Parks & Recreation create focus groups about changes and renovations because she and Majeedah are against Columbus Little League field being reduced to T-Ball Field. She thinks that the Parks department should hear from the community and see if there are any other possible locations.
 - **Kelly** recommended that a fund/grant be place within the Police Department budget to help pay for the police or any other expense city wise that park event planners have to fund so that the parks can host more events i.e. basketball tournaments at Columbus Parks
- Meeting adjourned 7:33 PM (1-Pornbeck, 2-Razzaq, unanimous)